

REMARKS

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, Applicants have amended the claims in the above-captioned application, which is an application under 35 U.S.C. § 371. It is respectfully requested that the amendments be entered prior to issuing an Office Action on the merits. The amendments have been made in order to conform the claims to U.S. practice, essentially eliminating multiple dependent claims which depend from other multiple dependent claims. Therefore, no new matter has been introduced and no amendments have been made for purposes of patentability. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the same or similar subject matter in this or another application. Further, in conforming the claims to U.S. practice, no claims have been narrowed within the meaning of *Festo v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, 234 F.3d 558, 56 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

4. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 or 2, wherein said protein kinase is a cycline-dependent kinase (CDK).

6. (Amended) The method of claim [4 or] 5, wherein said CDK is a PSTAIRE type CDK.

8. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1 or 2, wherein one of said cell cycle interactiving proteins is a cyclin (Cyc).

10. (Amended) The method of claim 8 [or 9,] wherein the cyclin is A, B, C, D or E-type cyclin.

11. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 8 to 10] claim 8, wherein the cyclin is a CycA1;1, CycA2;1, CycA2;2, CycA2;3, CycA3;1, CycB1;1, CycB1;2, CycB2;1, CycB2;2, CycD1;1, CycD2;1, CycD3;1 or CycD4;1.

13. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 12] claim 1 or 2, wherein one of the cell cycle interacting proteins is a ORC1, CDC6, CDC7, DBF4, E2F or DP.

15. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 12] claim 1 or 2, wherein one cell cycle interacting protein is a CDK and one of said cell cycle interactive proteins is a cyclin.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 15 [or 16,] wherein

- (a) the cyclin is CycA2;1 and the CDK is Cdc2a;
- (b) the cyclin is CycA2;2 and the CDK is Cdc2a, Cdc2b, Cdc2f, Cdc2bN161 or Cdc2aN146;
- (c) the cyclin is CycA2;3 and the CDK is Cdc2b, Cdc2f, Cdc2bN161 or Cdc2aN146;

(d) the cyclin is CycB1;1 and the CDK is Cdc2a or Cdc2b;

(e) the cyclin is CycB1;2 and the CDK is Cdc2a or Cdc2b;

(f) the cyclin is CycB2;1 and the CDK is Cdc2b or Cdc2f;

- (g) the cyclin is CycB2;2 and the CDK is Cdc2a or Cdc2b;
- (h) the cyclin is CycD1;1 and the CDK is G1-CDK or Cdc2a;
- (i) the cyclin is CycD2;1 and the CDK is G1-CDK or Cdc2a;
- (j) the cyclin is CycD3;1 and the CDK is G1-CDK or Cdc2a; or
- (k) the cyclin is CycD4;1 and the CDK is Cdc2a, Cdc2b, Cdc2f, Cdc2bN161, Cdc2aN146 or Cdc2fN164.

18. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 17] claim 15 wherein the CDK is Cdc2a and the cyclin is CycD4;1.

19. (Amended) The method of [anyone of claims 1 to 18,] claim 15 wherein the cell cycle interacting protein is a modified, a homolog or an analog form of a cell cycle interacting protein.

20. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 19] claim 15, wherein said nucleic acid molecule(s) encode(s) at least a catalytic and/or regulatory subunit of said cell cycle interacting protein(s).

21. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 20,] claim 15 wherein said cell cycle interacting proteins are expressed in one or more particular plant cells, tissues, organs and plant parts and progeny plants.

22. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 21,] claim 15 wherein said nucleic acid molecule(s) is (are) operatively linked to regulatory sequences allowing the expression of the nucleic acid molecule(s) in the plant cell.

23. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 22,] claim 22 wherein the regulatory sequence comprises promoter, enhancer, silencer, intron sequences, 3'UTR and/or 5'UTR regions, protein and/or RNA stabilizing elements.

24. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 23,] claim 22 wherein said regulatory sequence is a chimeric, tissue specific, constitutive or inducible promotor.

25. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 24,] claim 15 wherein said plant is a monocotyledonous or a dicotyledonous plant.

26. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 25] claim 25 wherein said plant is a crop plant, root plant, oil producing plant, wood producing plant, agricultured bioticultured plant, fodder or forage legume, companion plant or horticultured plant.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 25 [or 26,] wherein said plant is wheat, barley, maize, rice, carrot, sugar beet, cichorei, cotton, sunflower, tomato, cassava, grapes, soybean, sugar cane, flax, oilseed rape, tea, canola, onion, asparagus, carrot, celery, cabbage, lentil, broccoli, cauliflower, brussel sprout, artichoke, okra, squash, kale, collard greens or potato.

28. (Amended) A nucleic acid molecule encoding at least two cell cycle interacting proteins as defined in [any one of claims 1 to 21] claim 17.

29. (Amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 28 [or at least two nucleic acid molecules and/or regulatory sequences as defined in any one of claims 1 to 21].

30. (Amended) The vector of claim 29 comprising separate nucleic acid molecules encoding at least one of said cell cycle interacting proteins [as defined in any one of claims 1 to 21].

31. (Amended) A composition comprising vectors wherein each vector contains at least one nucleic acid molecule encoding at least one cell cycle interacting protein as defined in [any one of claims 1 to 21;] claim 1 or 2 and wherein the expression of said vectors results in the production of at least two cell cycle interacting proteins and assembly of the same in a complex in vitro or in vivo.

32. (Amended) The vector of claim 29 [or 30 or the composition of claim 31] wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to (a) control sequence(s) allowing the expression of cell cycle interacting proteins in a host cell.

34. (Amended) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 28[, the vector of any one of claims 29, 30, 32 or 33, or the composition of claims 31 or 32].

35. A method for the preparation of a cell cycle protein complex comprising:

- (a) culturing the host cell of claim 34 under conditions suitable for the expression of the nucleic acid molecules; and
- (b) recovering the complex from the culture.

36. (Amended) A cell cycle protein complex obtainable by the method of claim 35 [or encodable by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 28].

37. (Amended) A transgenic plant cell displaying an increased amount of or de novo cell cycle interacting protein complex compared to a corresponding wild type plant cell said transgenic plant cell comprising at least one nucleic acid molecule or regulatory sequence as defined in claim 17 [any one of claim 1 to 21, a nucleic acid molecule of claim 28, the vector of any one of claims 29, 30, 32 or 33 or the vectors of the composition of claim 31 or 32 or obtainable by the method of any one of claims 1 to 27].

39. (Amended) A transgenic plant or plant tissue comprising plant cells of claim 37 [or 38 or obtainable by the method of any one of claims 1 to 27].

40. The transgenic plant of claim 39 which displays modified and/or accelerated and/or enhanced plant growth, root growth, shoot growth and/or yield or modified architecture compared to the corresponding wild type plant.

41. (Amended) Harvestable parts or propagation material of a plant of claim 39 [29 or 30 comprising the plant cell of claim 37 or 38 or the tissue of claim 39].

Claim 42 is canceled.

Claim 43 is canceled.

Claim 44 is canceled.

Claim 45 is canceled.